

[TS- HK 648]

INFORMATION

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

April 21, 1971

~~TOP SECRET~~

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: WINSTON LORD
SUBJECT: Pakistan

MORI
C05141754

It turns out that Ambassador Farland's backchannel position is the same as his frontchannel position. In both cases he favors the option 3 of his frontchannel cable, i.e., the middle course between castigating and whitewashing Pakistan.

When we talked this morning you apparently thought that Farland was "officially" in favor of option 2 (siding with the Bengalis), presumably because Saunders in the staff meeting mistakenly cited this as Farland's position. I had not yet seen the backchannel and thought you meant that Farland had opted for option 1 (siding with Pakistan).

While I am always reluctant to choose the middle course between two forceful options (i.e., the famous "option 2" approach), I think in this case we have little choice. We can afford neither to alienate Pakistan nor to ignore Indian sensitivities, the nasty practices of Yahya's army, and the fact that almost all observers believe that Bangla Desh will eventually become an independent entity. Thus I think some version of option 3 is the only feasible course. It might annoy both sides, but hopefully would not cut us off from either.

WL:ms:4/21/71

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